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Application Number: 10/718,348

July 14, 2008

Applicant : John C. Simmons

Filed : 11/21/2003

Group Art Unit. 3766

Examiner : Deborah Leslie Malamud

Commissioner for Patents

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Response to office action mailed 4/30/2008

Responsive to a telephone conversation on July 10, 2008 with the examiner, applicant has made claim modifications and prepared a Request for Continued Examination (RCE). Applicant acknowledges that applicant's use of the unmodified term "directions" was unfortunate because it could easily be misinterpreted so as to be limited to "directions" such as "put your retainer back on" (Knierim) or "this gumball is for not barking for the last 10 minutes" (Watson). Though the current invention as described in the specification can communicate affirmations, corrections and pattern-identified commands, it also conveys spatial directions. Thus, the current invention has the ability to communicate "spatially precise directions" [0011] and "spatially intuitive" directional control ([0009] in the specification; e.g., arrows and/or points of reference). In one embodiment, where the stimulators create a pattern on the tongue, the "ideal spatial position cognizance" [0021] of that location (sharing the same spatial framework with both the vision system and the brain's perceived spatial framework) provides the brain with a directional reference that is eminently aligned with the brain's own spatial framework (allowing "spatial directions" that are perfectly related to the wearer's current spatial perspective).

Spatial directions can be communicated in numerous applicable ways including:

- a. Patterns (such as arrows, stop/go symbols, etc.):
 - 1. pointing in the preferred direction [0028][0059]
 - 2. communicating action e.g., (move now), tilt head [0030][0069][0071][0072]
 - 3. communicating speed ([0029][0060] both by moving arrows and speed of sequential point stimulation along an arrow
 - 4. importance [0061]
- b. Points [0056-0058]
- c. Lines indicating a path to be followed [0062]

Applicant has modified claim 1 to read as below (a marked-up version is also in the attached "Amendments to the claims"). Because the application has been pending since 2003 and applicant desires to eliminate as much as possible any potential for confusion